

Application No. 10/736,535
Amendment dated February 11, 2009
Reply to Office Action of August 19, 2008

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1-16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently amended) A method for ~~permanently occluding a vein~~~~the treatment of venous stasis through vascular ablation~~, comprising the following steps:

advancing an elongated intraluminal member through ~~the a-vein~~ to a treatment site in the vein;

~~moving activating~~ the intraluminal member against the vein's lining at the treatment site to disrupt the lining; and ~~or irritate the surface of a vein wall of the vein at the treatment site in a manner creating spasm of the vein at the treatment site~~;

injecting sclerosant into the vein at the treatment site causing irreversible damage to the disrupted lining-endothelium at the treatment site and consequently stimulating fibrosis of the vein at the treatment site, thereby permanently occluding the vein ~~by reducing blood flow and reducing the blood volume in the vein at the treatment site.~~

18. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 17, wherein the step of ~~activating~~ ~~includes moving~~ comprises scraping the intraluminal member against the vein's lining ~~to cause disruption or irritation of the vein.~~

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19. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 17, wherein the intraluminal member comprises ~~an~~ hollow infusion wire, and the sclerosant is injected into the vein through the hollow infusion wire.

20. (Original) The method according to claim 17, wherein the elongated intraluminal member is a balloon catheter.

21. (Canceled)

22. (Canceled)

23. (New) The method of claim 17, further comprising withdrawing the intraluminal member through the vein while scraping and injecting sclerosant.

24. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein the intraluminal member is advanced through a sheath, and the sclerosant is injected into the vein through an annular space between the intraluminal member and the sheath.

25. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein the vein has a size at the treatment site of 2-10mm.

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26. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein scraping comprises rotating the intraluminal member in the vein so that a portion of the intraluminal member engages the lining.
27. (New) The method of claim 26, wherein the portion of the intraluminal member that engages the lining is sharpened.
28. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein the intraluminal member curves at a distal end.
29. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein the intraluminal member is simultaneously rotated and moved longitudinally.
30. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein the sclerosant is injected during scraping.
31. (New) The method of claim 30, wherein the intraluminal member is rotated and moved longitudinally during scraping.
32. (New) The method of claim 30, wherein the vein's lining is disrupted without perforating the vein.
33. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein moving the intraluminal member comprises moving it longitudinally.